

Boehle Presents at ICSS

Monica Boehle, Global Studies teacher, presented at the annual Illinois Council for the Social Studies (ICSS) Convention held on September 29th in Lisle. The presentations related to the theme of the conference, "Increasing Content Literacy in the Social Studies Classroom." Each of the three presentations focused on different levels of Social Studies instruction: elementary, middle school, and high school. Teachers and administrators from throughout the state of Illinois attended the three sessions.

All three presentations modeled instruction that asks students to become actively involved in their learning. Participants became students to understand how hands-on structured lesson plans can increase student learning in Social Studies classrooms. Boehle advocates a method of Social Studies instruction created by the Teacher's Curriculum Institute (TCI). Students are asked to preview content, learn the content in an interactive manner, then process the information in a multiple intelligence assessment. Students must demonstrate their learning of the content in a different way than presented in class. This method helps increase test scores because students must actually use information, not just memorize information.

This is the second year that Monica Boehle has presented at ICSS.



What's Happening in Humanities?

Building a culture of rigorous academic standards has just been enhanced for every student at St. Charles North. Beginning this November, students have access to a new resource, Turnitin.com. Through the use of this web-based resource, students are able to determine what sections of a paper need to be cited and how to cite the sections properly. English teachers have already registered with the program and all students are registering first through their English classes and then, as the year progresses, with all their classes. All students will be able to review all papers for all classes through Turnitin.com from home or school. Log onto the

website for more details.

The Music Program has had a flurry of activity these past few weeks. Band, Orchestra, and Choir ensembles had recent concerts that showed the enormous talent of the students. They joined forces to perform *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* for the Veterans Day Assembly as well as performing it during their respective concerts.

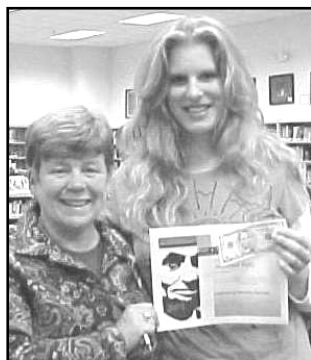
Sixty-seven students participated in the District IX auditions for the Jazz and Senior Festivals. We are excited and happy to inform you that thirty seven of these students have been selected to participate. This is great news as it shows, once again, our students' commitment to excellence. Some of these students may qualify for the All-State festival this January. And if you want to see and hear even more rigorous academic standards in action, think jazz. This December the Jazz Workshop will be performing for over 2,000 attendees at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. To top that, in January, 2007, the Jazz Workshop is one of three high school music ensembles nationwide that has been invited to perform for the International Association of Jazz Educators Conference in New York City. Go North –Go Jazz!

Once again, the Music Program has been selected as a finalist for the Grammy Foundation's Signature School designation. This is the second year in a row the music program has been designated one of the top 100 schools in the nation.

In a connection between art and journalism, sophomore Josh Nelson, juniors Jess Regowski and Pat Manser, and senior Kylee Sprengel attended a Media Day with the Chicago Wolves. This event was sponsored by the Wolves and supported by art teacher Linda Goll, journalism teacher Gregg Mundt, and career specialist Sue Gloss. Students were able to meet with Mark Giangreco from ABC 7 News, Harry Teinowitz from ESPN, Kerry Sayers from Comcast SportsNet, and Scott Powers from The Daily Herald as well as the Wolves players. They are now 'official' press photographers and reporters and are able to attend Wolves games in that capacity.

Last but not least, the 2006-07 Upstate Eight Art Exhibit will be on display from Friday, December 8, 2006 until Sunday, January 7, 2007 at the Norris Cultural Arts Center in St. Charles. Make some time to view the amazing artwork of our North Star students.

Read a Lincoln ~ Win a Lincoln



(L to R) Technology/Media Instructional Coordinator, Cheryl LaMaster, and senior award recipient, Savannah Foley.

Congratulations to senior Savannah Foley for winning the inaugural North High School **Read a Lincoln ~ Win a Lincoln** award. Savannah is an avid reader and, coincidentally, has challenged herself to read all of the Lincoln books including those nominated in the past two years. A recent transplant from Seattle area, Savannah expressed her appreciation for the challenging classes and the supportive culture she has experienced here at

North High School. She said she finds her teachers enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

The **Abraham Lincoln Book Award** is awarded annually to the author of the book voted as most outstanding by participating students in grades nine through twelve in Illinois. The award is named for Abraham Lincoln, one of Illinois' most famous residents and himself an avid reader and noted author. The award is sponsored by the Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA). The Abraham Lincoln Award is designed to encourage high school students to read for personal satisfaction and become familiar with authors of young adult and adult books.

For the **Read a Lincoln ~ Win a Lincoln** program, any North High School student reading one of the nominated books and writing a short review is qualified to have their name included in a monthly drawing for a crisp five dollar bill. See Ms. Fleming in the LRC for a form.

For more information on this program, check out <http://islma.org/lincoln.htm>

LOOKING FOR HOLIDAY GIFT SUGGESTIONS?



The LRC staff at North has a few gift suggestions for this holiday season.

For the readers in the household, consider purchasing a book by one or more of the titles nominated for the Abraham Lincoln award. Lists of titles (with short descriptions) can be found linked to the LRC webpage.

For the technology oriented, consider purchasing a flash or thumb drive. These small storage devices are durable, portable and handy for students to carry files from home to school and back. Several major brands are available at local electronic stores, and are frequently on sale at holiday time.

LRC OPEN LATE

The Learning Resource Center will be open later than normal to accommodate students finishing projects and assignments. During the week prior to semester exams the LRC will be open until 6 p.m.

Semester Textbooks

Textbooks from first semester classes that will end in January are due at the end of the semester and should be returned in January. An amazing number of students don't return them on time. Why would a student want to keep the book for a class they no longer have? An age old question for librarians! Help out the LRC staff by reminding your students to return textbooks for semester classes.

TROOPS RECEIVE LETTERS FROM NHS



Inspired by the Veteran's Day assembly, the Keyboarding classes have decided to send holiday letters to our service men and women. In Keyboarding students are introduced to a unit on correct letter format and are applying the skills they learned through this activity. Keyboarding teachers include Barb Schmit, Michael Smith, and Lori Crum.



BREAKFAST WITH THE STARS

The Breakfast with the Stars Program honors individual stars within our school community. Some of the individuals nominated are out there for all of us to see and congratulate. Others are behind the scenes or who, in their quiet way, demonstrate a level of excellence through service, academics, competition, or simple kindness. Some of these students give of their special talents on a day-to-day basis in the classroom and some of them excel in our extra and co-curricular activities. Each student is unique and special in the way they share and develop our school community.

October Breakfast with the Stars Award Recipients:

<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Mr. Matt Kirby	Natalie Albers
	Curtis Behrens
Ms. Therese Labuz	Nick Partridge
Mr. Brian Maloney	Lindsay Klacko
Mr. Kevin Harrington	Ralph Barone
Ms. Julie Bishop	Samantha Crotty
Mr. Scott Von Essen	Taylor Coughlin
Mr. Gary Riley	Madeline Ford

November Breakfast with the Stars Award Recipients:

<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Ms. Marilyn Zimmer	Christine Duppler
Ms. Jennifer Mitten	Kelsey Anderson
Ms. Marcia Lancaster	Evelyn Gordon
Ms. Jenny Watson	Sloane Passmore
Mr. Mike Dockum	Parth Patel
Ms. Tanis Loudon	Rose Adkins
Ms. Katherine McCleary	Veronica Jacobucci

December Breakfast with the Stars Award Recipients:

<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Ms. Heidi Heinrich	Jordan Stewart
Ms. Carri Pozzi	Emily Pacholski
Mr. James Monegan	Conner Lain
Ms. Marsha Brown	Jonathan McDonald
Ms. Valerie Landbo	Joseph Miller
Ms. Laura Wilkinson	Ryan Sanders

BIOLOGY CLASSES TEST LOCAL WATER QUALITY

All of the Biology classes have been working first-hand to determine the water quality of Ferson Creek and the Fox River over the last quarter. Not only have they been studying ecology, but they have also examined ecosystems right here in St. Charles.

The Honors Biology classes spent a day at Tekakwitha Woods to collect data for the Friends of the Fox organization. This organization monitors the quality of the water along the Fox River and these classes man one of the testing sites. Our results showed that the abiotic factors were generally good although the biotic factors were only fair for that area.

The Ferson Creek experience brought more positive results. The abiotic factors were good to excellent and the biotic factors were good. We found lots of insect larva, crayfish, and mussels in the creek! Students enjoyed the field trip and helped to gather relevant data about the environment near our school.



Honors Biology students analyze data from the Fox River to determine water quality.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WOODS?

Mr. Mahoney and Mr. Brown are busy running open labs on most weekends for the woods classes so students can get caught up on projects and/or finish projects they have started for holiday gift giving. Also, students have started on finalized dimensioning and construction of the information kiosk which will be located in the main foyer. The students will be spending class time and open labs to gain valuable experience in producing cabinetry furniture. We are hoping to have the new kiosk in place early 2nd semester.

Why Did The Northstars Cross The Road?

They can be seen crossing Route 31 in mass and walking in the Fox River Bluff West Forest preserve in all kinds of weather. Who are they? They are the juniors and seniors of North's Regional Environmental Science classes working hard to help the local environment. The students are partnering with the Kane County Forest Preserve to restore a section of Fox River Bluff West. "The Bluff" as it is known by students is conveniently located across Route 31 from the school and is used by students and community members as a recreational and exercise area. The students also use it as a "living laboratory" when they study the conditions of the existing ecosystem and make plans to return portions of it to savannah-like conditions (a savannah is an environment that is a mixture of a prairie and an open woodland).

The restoration process is driven by the students and supported by Forest Preserve personnel and North teachers. This year the students will be responsible for utilizing a \$2000 grant from the St. Charles Education foundation. One thousand dollars will go towards the design and construction of signs to educate and inform visitors to The Bluff about the restoration efforts. The remaining one thousand dollars will be used to purchase native plants that will be planted at The Bluff in the spring. The restoration project allows students to deal with the challenges of a real world restoration and to actually carry out the restoration. On November 28th, the students presented their proposed plan to an audience of fellow students, teachers, and professionals from the Kane County Forest Preserve, and members of the community. Based on the feedback from that presentation the restoration will move forward.

So why might students be running around at the Bluff in the winter? On December 14th students will venture to The Bluff to get rid of unwanted and invasive plants. Armed with handsaws and loppers students will remove plants such as buckthorn, honeysuckle and wild grape in an attempt to make room for the plants to be planted in the spring. If you are interested in learning more about our restoration efforts or in becoming involved please let us know! -RES Team 630-587-7113

ENGINEERING DRAFTING & PRODUCT DESIGN CLASSES USE NEW 3D PRINTER

Students are utilizing the Dimension ST 768 3D Printer machine that was donated to St. Charles North High School for 1st semester this year. The printer was donated by The Dimension 3D Printing Group as part of the Society of Mechanical Engineers' (SME) Bright Minds Program.

"In the past, the only way to create design models was to go to the woodshop or use clay," said Engineering Drafting instructor Ron Brown. "These methods were slow, cumbersome and simply not an option for certain types of designs. With the Dimension 3D printer, the students' concepts come to life before their eyes in a fraction of the time it takes to fashion a wood or clay model."

Currently, about 60 students are using the printer, and Brown reports that the learning curve with the solution has been relatively short. "In approximately one class period the students can learn how to save and transfer files. The ease of use is only part of the upside; what's really encouraging is seeing how the system has sparked students' interest in design."

Senior, Robbie Miller, is one student that has taken full advantage of the Dimension system. "I've really enjoyed using the Dimension 3D system since it arrived," said Robbie. "I've used it to create a number of different three-dimensional shapes and a model of my family's house. I also plan to use the system to design an entry for the upcoming Dimension Extreme Redesign Challenge 2006, as well as a model car for the Chrysler Dream Vehicle contest."

Robbie took part in the SME's Bright Minds Program offered at the 2006 Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing Conference and Exposition last May in St. Charles. At the conference, Robbie and 47 other Illinois students participating in the program were matched with industry expert mentors with experience in design areas matching the students' interests.

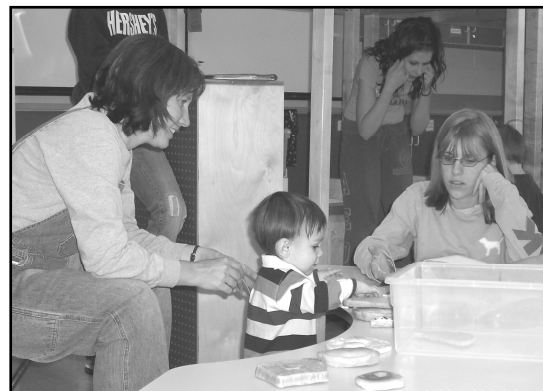
"The expo opened my eyes to all the possibilities available in the field of design," Robbie said. "I really enjoyed it and would recommend this program to other students interested in design."

Child Development Class

Storytelling: Zip, Zap, Zum....Froggy, "You forgot to put on your underwear!!!!" Froggy Gets Dressed by Jonathan London was told through animated actions and facial expressions on November 14, 2006, by Donna Dettman, Youth Librarian from the St. Charles Public Library as she presented a workshop on storytelling to Colleen Fasbender's Child Development classes at St. Charles North High School. Flannel boards, props, story boards, picture drawings, puppets were some of the techniques that were shared with the students as they study early childhood. Sharing a love for a favorite story, manipulating one's voice, and taking risks to be silly with children were important messages that were shared.

Starting in February the Child Development 2 students will run the StarKids Teaching and Learning Center for community preschoolers. For further info please contact Colleen Fasbender at 443-2763.

Infant Observation Day: What can a 6 month old child do? What are the developmental norms for a 10 month old child? What are the differences between parenting a 6 month old to a 12 month old? Child Development 1 students at St. Charles North HS were able to find out during their infant observation day. Cameron Cohen (6 months), Andrew Smerz (10 months), Natalie Isunza (13 months) and their parents (Stephanie Cohen, Becky Isunza, and Lori Smerz) were invited in for a period of play for observational purposes. Students planned age appropriate activities for the day and observed how the infant interacted with the environment. Sidney Goodman, freshman, stated "The day helped us understand the information about norm behavior more." Jackie Coppes, freshman, stated "it gave us a hands-on opportunity to relate it to Piaget's Theory."



Child Development I student, Emily O'Connor, observes Andrew Smerz while he plays, as his mother Lori Smerz looks on.

Adoption: What are the different types of adoption? Why do parents choose to adopt? What are the costs related to adoption? What rights does Illinois law permit a birth mom? Kathy Lamb, St. Charles resident and parent of a St. Charles North student, represented the Cradle, an adoption agency. Kathy shared with the Child Development students information related to adoption and her experiences as an adoptive parent.

Parenting Panel: What is it really like to be a parent? What are the joys, frustrations, rewards and fears that go along with being a parent? How is parenting different with a newborn or a 13 year old? Child Development 1 students at St. Charles North HS discovered different parenting perspectives as staff members shared their experiences. Many thanks to the following staff members that offered to share their thoughts and time: Julie Phenev, Carri Pozzi, Tim Butterly, Janice Young, Amy Boynton, Kim Zupec, Monica Boehle, Marsha Brown, Sue Prigge, Bill Stepien, Susan Jones, Rebecca Reber, Val Newman, and Kristen Cruthers.

FEA PDK WALK

Twelve FEA members, advisors, parents and Principal Zupec of the St. Charles North Future Educators Association (FEA) walked in the third-annual Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) International Walk for Education on Saturday, October 28th at Waubonsie Valley High School.

The event raised money for local, nonprofit educational organizations named by the various teams of walkers, and for the PDK Educational Foundation.

Phi Delta Kappa is an international association for professional educators dedicated to promoting quality education by providing innovative programs, relevant research, visionary leadership, and dedicated service, according to the organization's website. Future Educators Association is a national, pre-collegiate teacher recruitment organization.

For the 3rd consecutive year, St. Charles North FEA members have raised the most money out of all the other Kane County clubs. Each walker sought donations for the cause with St. Charles North contributing \$1032 towards the event. Sixty percent of each team's proceeds will go to the local organization and 40 percent will benefit programs through the PDK Educational Foundation and help defray the cost of the event. Over \$7000 was raised by the participating Kane County FEA chapters participating in this event.

STC North High walkers include: Kim Zupec, Principal, St. Charles North HS, District 303 staff members Colleen Fasbender (Advisor-North High School), John Fasbender, and Margery Trayser (Advisor-Wild Rose Elementary School); students Ellen Leary, Sana Rizvi, Stephanie Zima (Freshman), Emily Leary and Veronica Iacobucci (sophomores), Kelly Lullo (junior), Jo Besser (senior); and parent, Kim Leary.



STC North HS FEA walkers

Support Your North HS Hockey Club

The St. Charles North Hockey Club plays in the West division of the Chicago Metropolitan Hockey League. The club features both a Varsity and Junior Varsity team and we draw players from local hockey clubs such as the Glen Ellyn Flames, Cyclones, Chicago Blues and the Northwest Chargers. We play an exciting brand of hockey in a highly competitive league. Each team will play approximately 45 games this season. For more information on our club, including our schedule, please visit www.scnhockey.com or email club president Scott Paulsen at spaulsen@scnhockey.com.



SCN Hockey Team vs. Naperville North High School.

STUDENT SERVICES NEWS

Kevin Scotellaro, Assistant Principal for Student Services

This is a reminder of some of the rules that are written in the student handbook:

Cell phones - Students are not allowed to use their cell phones during the school day. Use of cell phones is disruptive to our learning environment, and students will have disciplinary consequences if they use them during the school day.

Medications - Students may not, under any circumstances, carry medication on them during the school day. **This rule applies to prescription and non-prescription medication.** The only exceptions to this rule are inhalers for asthma and epi-pens for severe allergic reactions. In those circumstances, we must have documentation on file in the nurses' office that the student's physician and parents have approved this. If a student is to receive any medication during the school day, they must have a medication authorization form filled out by their physician and co-signed by a parent. The medication then must be in its original container, clearly identified with the student's name, the name of the medication, and the dosage. This rule is for everyone's safety, and we cannot compromise on this.

Medication forms are available on line from the d303 website under "Health Services", or from the nurses' office.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that we have a healthy and safe learning environment for all members of our community.

GUIDANCE ACTIVITIES FROM THIS FALL

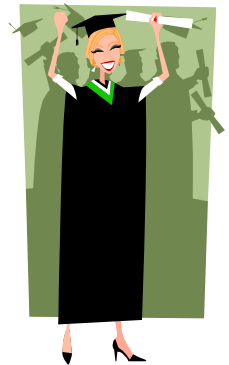
This year has seen a number of guidance activities designed to prepare our students for success at North, and beyond. Here are a few brief highlights:

- Guidance counselors provide a "Freshman Year Counts" presentation to all freshman emphasizing the need to transition to "putting your best foot forward" as grades now become part of a permanent record.
- Counselors are holding individual meetings with each of their freshman students to assist in the transition to high school and successful achievement.
- Counselors meet with juniors to present critical information needed in the detailed process of exploring, applying, and selecting colleges.
- Counselors present an "Applying and Getting into Your Dream College" Night for seniors and their parents.
- Counselors hold individual meetings with each of their seniors to ensure successful post high school outcomes.
- Counselors provide a "Searching for the University of Your Dreams" Night for juniors and their parents.
- Sophomores take the PLAN test - an essential factor in preparing for taking the ACT test during junior year.
- Counselors and an Elgin Community College representative provide a first annual "Early Graduate Night" program to prepare those seniors who are completing their required credits during first semester for May graduation, graduation activities, and transition to college and/or work life.

STUDENT SERVICES NEWS (cont'd)

Attention Seniors Planning to Attend College

By now, most of our seniors interested in attending a college or university in 2007 have already applied to the schools they are interested in. Several of these students already know whether they have been accepted, while some will find out in the next month or two. This can be a trying time for all involved. Please be patient while schools make their final decisions. If you have not heard from a school in question and it has been a while, or something doesn't feel right, check with the admissions office directly. If unsure, feel free to check with your high school counselor.



If you are planning to attend college next year, **and have not applied yet**, we strongly recommend you take care of this as soon as possible. There may still be some institutions that have not filled up yet. Keep in mind, some students make the mistake of applying to a school, but forget to have the transcript and/or test scores sent from our office. Please note that you have not officially applied until your application is complete!

Remember, seniors have until May 1st to formally commit to a college and turn in deposit money, although it is ok to do so earlier. It is very important that if students have been accepted at more than one school, they let each school know whether they are planning to attend, or not, by that time. This can be done by e-mail, a letter, or a phone call. This is not only good etiquette, but allows an institution to offer that spot to another worthy candidate.

In addition, many highly selective colleges require that students send an official mid-year grade report to them. Students who still need to do that, can give their guidance counselor a transcript release, \$1.00, a mid-year grade form (from the college), and an addressed, business-sized envelope with proper postage. These should be turned in during January and will be mailed out once first semester grades have been finalized.

All students planning to attend college in the fall will need to complete a final transcript release for that school they have decided upon. The counselors will be seeing the senior students in May to complete that task. Good news – this is the *free* transcript, so we don't need to collect a dollar, envelopes, or stamps! Please note, these will be mailed out once second semester grades are finalized. Any NCAA Clearinghouse forms that have previously been completed will also go out at this time.

A Summary of Post High School Planning for Juniors

The guidance counselors recently presented vital post high school planning information to every junior during their United States History classes. During that time, we informed the juniors what they should be doing right now, later in the year, and into the summer and fall of senior year. In addition to providing valuable information, we gave them useful handouts and answered questions. Please take some time and ask your child what s/he learned from that presentation and check out some of the handouts, including a copy of the power point used. The topics we covered included resources to use such as websites, general entrance requirements, college visits, standardized testing, and the college application process.

In addition, each counselor is planning to meet individually with their own juniors once registration is completed. At that time, we will be talking in more detail about schools/careers they are interested in, providing additional information, and making sure that they have the tools and knowledge to continue on the right path to finding the "good fit" we talked about. For more detailed information on these college related topics, visit our web site, which is: www.d303.org/schools/scn/scnpps/guidance.htm.

STUDENT SERVICES NEWS (cont'd)**General College Testing Information for Juniors**

Since we get so many questions at this time of the year in regards to college entrance exams and test preparation, we have included more detailed information here on that popular topic.

- Most colleges and universities require a college entrance examination (either the ACT or the SAT I) for admission, although students can take both tests. Later, a student can submit the higher of the scores by marking their transcript release appropriately.
- We recommend taking these tests towards the end of junior year. If necessary, a student can retake in September of senior year. Note: If taking one of these tests as a senior in the fall, students will need to register for the test during the summer.
- Students can take either test as many times as they want. Note: Juniors will get a free ACT test on April 25th as part of the Prairie State Achievement Exam, which the counselors will help sign them up for sometime in March.
- Several colleges/universities are now either recommending or requiring the new writing component of the ACT. Check with the schools your child is interested in to see what their policy is. The ACT web site (see below) keeps an updated list of which schools are requiring it.
- These tests are given on Saturday mornings at least six times a year at high schools and colleges all over the country, although not at St. Charles North every time. (Check the remaining dates below.) If students wish to take a test on a specific date, and it is not being offered here, students are able to sign up at another school by using that high school code (see website or back of registration book).
- Test registration packets, which are in the guidance office, contain important information, such as costs, directions for filling out the registration form, testing locations and dates, and key deadlines. Note: Students who sign up late could find themselves taking the test at a school further away, so we recommend filling this out two to three months ahead of time.
- Students can also register online at the testing web sites. All one needs is a credit card, some time, and **our high school CEEB code, which is: 143-796**. (It is very important that students include this code so their counselor receives their scores to send to colleges later on.) For updated information on the ACT, go to the following web site: www.actstudent.org. For SAT, visit: www.collegeboard.com.

Remaining ACT and SAT Test Dates for 2006 - 07:

<u>Test Dates:</u>	<u>Regular Registration:</u>	<u>Late Registration:</u>
ACT: Feb 10	Jan 5	Jan 19
* ACT: April 14	March 9	March 23
ACT: June 9	May 4	May 18
SAT: Jan 27	Dec 20	Jan 4
SAT: March 10	Feb 2	Feb 14
SAT: May 5	Mar 29	April 11
* SAT: June 2	April 27	May 9

KEY: * = Test given here at STCN H.S.

STUDENT SERVICES NEWS (cont'd)**Standardized Test Preparation Information**

College entrance tests are an important part of the college admissions process. Questions for both the ACT and the SAT come from concepts learned in previous classes. However, some students benefit from additional preparation, which is offered through a number of agencies. Note: signing up for a prep course does NOT also sign you up for the actual test, which is a separate step. The following is an alphabetical listing of prep programs that local families have found beneficial in helping students perform at their best:

Elgin Community College

Location: ECC Length: 28 hours Dates: Feb. 17 – Mar. 18, 2007
Time: Sat. 9 - 1 & Sun. Noon – 2 Cost: \$169 Contact: 847-622-3036; www.elgin.edu

Excel Edge

Location: St. Charles North HS Length: 18 hours Dates: January 22 – March 19, 2007
Time: 7:00 -9:00 pm (Days TBA) Cost: \$202 (Note: December 12 deadline)
Contact: Information mailed to Juniors in Nov.

Huntington Learning Center

Location: Geneva Length: Varies by student Dates/Time: Arranged
Cost: Varies (\$40-68/hr.) Contact: 262-0560; www.huntingtonlearning.com

Kaplan

Location: Naperville, Schaumburg, Aurora Length: 36 hours Dates/Time: Varies by test
Cost: \$699 ACT; \$899 SAT Contact: 1-800-KAPTEST; www.kaptest.com

Learning Ascent

Location: Instructor comes to your home Length: Varies Dates/Time: Varies by student
Cost: Varies (\$40-45/hr) Contact: 222-2795; www.learningascent.com

Princeton Review

Location: Naperville, Schaumburg Length: 24 hours Dates/Time: Varies by date of test
Cost: \$699 ACT; \$999 SAT Contact: 1-866-877-7737; www.princetonreview.com

Sylvan Learning Center

Location: South Elgin; St. Charles Length: Varies, based on individual/group
Dates/Time: Varies Cost: Varies (\$40-45/hr.) Contact: 847-841-1771; www.sylvanprep.com

Tutoring Club

Location: Geneva Commons Length: Varies based on individual/group Dates/Time: Varies
Cost: \$1150 ind./group rates TBA Contact: 208-9832

Waubonsee Community College

Location: Batavia, Geneva, Sugar Grove Length: 7 ½ hrs – 24 hrs Dates/Time: Varies
Cost: \$59 - \$199 (+ book fee) Contact: 466-7900 x5757; www.waubonsee.edu/communityed

Students may also wish to consult the following publications

“Preparing for the ACT Assessment”, published by ACT. This booklet is free and is available in the NHS Guidance Office and on-line at www.actstudent.org. Other test prep materials may also be purchased at the ACT web site for a reasonable cost.

“ACTive PREP” This is the only test prep software on CD-Rom with real ACT retired tests and an interactive learning experience. These can be checked out from NHS LRC for free.

“The Real ACT Prep Guide”, published by Peterson Guides. This book contains information from the makers of the ACT and includes retired ACT exams; may be purchased at bookstores.

“Taking the SAT”, published by College Board. This booklet is free and is available in the NHS Guidance Office and on-line at www.collegeboard.com. Other test prep materials may also be purchased at the SAT web site for a reasonable cost.

STUDENT SERVICES NEWS (cont'd)

What students can do to maximize their performance on standardized tests

- Register early (either on-line or by mail) so you test when and where you want. Otherwise, you could be driving for an hour on the morning of the test to an unfamiliar place. Plan ahead!
- Get a good night of sleep the night before the test.
- Eat a healthy and nutritious breakfast. Most testing centers forbid any food and drink (including water) in the room and only provide one ten-minute break.
- Take these items with you on test day: photo ID, test admission ticket, several #2 pencils (with erasers), a calculator, and watch (with alarm/beep turned off).
- Relax and be confident in your ability to do well. Remember, the ACT and SAT can always be retaken. In addition, colleges understand that many students take these exams two or three times.
- Read all instructions carefully before the test begins. Don't waste test time reading them at a later time.
- Pace yourself. Most people have enough time to answer all of the questions. Answer the "easy" questions first and then go back later and answer the more difficult ones.
- There is a difference between guessing on the ACT and the SAT: For the ACT, your scores are based on the number of correct questions you have, so it is to your advantage to answer every question. For the SAT, you don't have to answer each question correctly to receive a good score. If you have no idea for a specific answer, perhaps you should not answer the question and move on. On the other hand, if you can eliminate an answer or two, your chances of being correct just increased, and you may wish to answer.
- If you make a mistake, erase completely. Extra marks on your answer sheet could negatively affect your scores.
- Review your work if you finish early in case you missed any questions or marked an answer twice. These tests have penalties if you work on a different section, either a past test or a future one, so don't do it. Your scores may be voided and you won't get your money back.



Financial Aid Presentation for College Bound Students

"Financial Aid 101"

Tuesday, January 9th, 2007 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

St. Charles North High School Auditorium

Guest Speaker: Mr. John Urish, Beloit College

All areas of financial aid will be addressed, including general facts and myths, the FAFSA form, scholarship searches and scams, and the various sources of financial assistance. There will be time to have your questions answered and useful handouts will be available. Don't miss this one!

General Financial Aid Information: We are including some basic financial aid information here for your convenience, but will go into more detail on January 9th at the Financial Aid meeting. To begin, financial aid is usually based on need or a talent. There are schools that will give money to students for their athletic, musical, leadership, or academic abilities. And there are schools that will give money based on their financial need. Need is determined by one main form at most colleges and universities: the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

STUDENT SERVICES NEWS (cont'd)

General Financial Aid Information (cont'd): The good news is that applying for student financial aid is FREE. If you need help completing the FAFSA, you can get that help free, too. You can either use the paper copy (which is available at most schools and libraries), or complete the form on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. We recommend using FAFSA on the Web over using the paper form because:

- FAFSA on the Web identifies potential errors right away and prompts you to make on-the-spot corrections.
- You get online instructions for each question, and you can “chat” live online with a customer service representative if you have further questions. There’s no charge for this help.

Before beginning the FAFSA, both the student and parent will need to obtain a PIN number at www.pin.ed.gov. Your PIN helps you:

- Apply online for federal student aid, using FAFSA on the Web.
- “Sign” your application electronically and complete the student aid process totally online — by signing the application electronically, you’ll get your results faster.
- Make corrections to your FAFSA.
- Access all of your federal student aid records online, including any federal loan information.

You can complete the FAFSA beginning Jan. 1st of your child’s senior year and have until June 30 of that year to submit your form. But, you need to apply early! Schools and states often use FAFSA information to award nonfederal aid. Their deadlines are usually early in the year. Check with the schools you’re interested in for their deadlines. Note: Some schools may also require an additional form, such as the CSS Profile, in order to obtain more accurate financial information from you.

Once the FAFSA is completed, you’ll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Your SAR contains the information reported on your FAFSA and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number. The EFC, a measure of your family’s financial strength, is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information as soon as you get it and make any corrections or changes, if necessary. The EFC is calculated according to a formula established by law. Your family’s income (taxable and untaxed), assets, and benefits (for example, unemployment or Social Security) are all considered in determining your EFC. Also considered is your family size and the number of family members who will attend a college or career school. To be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, your EFC must be below a certain number, which can vary from year to year.

When you complete the FAFSA, you can also have your confidential financial information sent to six colleges. Once they receive your results, they will contact you. If eligible, each school’s aid administrator will send your child an award letter outlining the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer your child. You can compare award letters from the schools your child applied to and see what aid each school is providing. At this time, your family is now better able to make a sound decision as to what school might be the best option. It is for this reason that colleges give students until May 1st to make their final decision as to whether they will attend their school or not.

You need to respond to each college by either accepting or rejecting their financial aid offer. If you don’t respond by the deadline, the award may be canceled. It is very important that you inform the colleges your child decided not to attend, so the college can then give admission and/or funds to students who are planning to attend their institution, and they can close your family file.

So, you might be curious at this point how much aid you might get. The EFC formula must be applied to each family’s financial information, so we can’t tell you here whether you’ll be eligible for federal student aid or estimate how much aid you might get. That’s why you need to apply — to find out!

The financial aid administrator at each school that your child has been accepted at, puts together a financial aid package that comes as close as possible to meeting your need. Keep in mind, most federal student aid funds are limited, so the total amount you receive might fall short of the amount you’re eligible for or were hoping for. Also, except for Federal Pell Grant aid, the amount of federal student aid you receive is affected by other sources of aid your child might get — state aid, scholarships, etc. Each school your child applies to will send you a notice of the types and amounts of aid you are eligible for.

The EFC formula is basically the same for all applicants, but there is some flexibility. Your college financial aid administrator might adjust the cost of attendance or the information used to calculate your EFC to take into account special circumstances you might have. These circumstances could include any unusual medical expenses, tuition expenses, or unemployment. There must be compelling reasons for the financial aid administrator to take this step, however, and you’ll have to provide adequate documentation to support any adjustments.

Common Myths Regarding Financial Aid:

Millions of scholarship dollars go unclaimed every year. FALSE. The statement that private scholarship dollars go unclaimed is mostly unfounded. This is what professional scholarship search services would like you and your family to believe — they want you to pay for their services. You can do your own search for scholarships. Students simply need to do what each scholarship requires, by the date given, in order to be eligible.

STUDENT SERVICES NEWS (cont'd)

Common Myths Regarding Financial Aid (cont'd):

You or your parents can't get any financial aid because your family income is too high. FALSE. Income is only one of the criteria on which financial aid is based. If the school's costs exceed your family's means, your child will qualify for some form of financial aid (such as a grant, loan, or work study). Remember, several scholarships are based on merit or talents.

You shouldn't even consider your first-choice school if it costs too much. FALSE. Generally, the higher the total school costs, the easier it is to demonstrate eligibility for financial aid. Also, the stated costs at a school can be deceiving: aid is often available to offset some of the costs. You should apply to the school and wait to see the financial aid award letter before making any final decisions. Each year, we see several students who are attending private, expensive, or out-of-state schools for less money (or at a comparable amount) than what it would cost them to attend an in-state public school. Usually, that is due to a talent scholarship – academic, athletic, leadership, etc.

There's not as much financial aid as there used to be. FALSE. A recent statistic indicates that, in 1965, \$600 million was available for financial aid. Just a few years ago, federal student aid programs alone provided roughly \$61 billion in grants, loans, and work-study assistance to more than 7.6 million people. It is true, however, that loans and work-study are now a larger percentage of the total financial aid award than they used to be. In addition, each year, we offer more and more scholarships in the guidance office, which senior students are encouraged to stop by and check out each week or two. For an updated list of these scholarships, check out our web site at: www.d303.org/schools/scn/scnpps/docs/scholarships.pdf.

Useful financial aid/scholarship websites

College Illinois - www.collegeillinois.com

Here, one can discover more about planning financially for a post-secondary education, including the 529 prepaid tuition plan, which allows one to lock in the current cost of tuition and fees.

FAFSA on the Web - www.fafsa.ed.gov/

All college-bound seniors should apply for financial aid using this form *after January 1st*. FAFSA on the web contains the electronic application utilized by all colleges and universities throughout the country. First, register for a pin number at www.pin.ed.gov/.

fastWEB - www.fastweb.com

Contains a free scholarship search database; will e-mail new scholarships to student's mail box.

The Financial Aid Information page - www.finaid.org

This is a quality site for information and links on financial aid, scholarships, loans, and scam alerts.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission - www.collegezone.com

Our state's own resource for students and parents to remain up-to-date as to the latest financial aid news and changes; one can also perform scholarship searches, and use a financial aid estimator.

Sallie Mae - www.salliemae.com

A comprehensive resource for planning and paying for college. The various areas will provide answers to many of your questions, including scholarship scams, finding the right college, loans, etc.



JOB SHADOWING – A Great Way To Explore Careers!

What is Job Shadowing? It is a “one-day” worksite experience (typically three to six hours) during which a student spends time with a professional in a career of interest to the student. Job shadowing permits the student to visit the workplace environment and observe daily activities; the student can talk to professionals about their career, workplace skills, and educational requirements. This “real-world-of work” experience can help a student gain confidence in their ability to make informed and realistic decisions about their education and future career goals.

Who runs the Job Shadow Program? Our school's part-time Career Specialist, Ms. Susan Gloss.

Which careers can a student Job Shadow? A wide range of careers can be explored. Ms. Gloss will contact an appropriate job shadow host for all student requests with prior approval of the parent/guardian. Most job shadows are sponsored at local businesses.

STUDENT SERVICES NEWS (cont'd)

JOB SHADOWING – A Great Way To Explore Careers! (cont'd)

Who can participate? All students in good standing with the Deans' Office can job shadow.

When would the Job Shadow take place? Usually after school, on weekends, or on days when school is not in session; occasionally a job shadow takes place during school hours, (in which case a pre-approved absence is required from the Deans' Office.)

What is the student required to do? Initially the students will meet with Ms. Gloss and will conduct some research on the career. After the job shadow, the student will write a thank you letter to the job shadow host and complete an evaluation. The student will need to arrange their own transportation to and from the job shadow site.

What if a student does not know what they want to do? This is not unusual considering there are over 33,000 careers. Students can arrange to meet with Ms. Gloss for career guidance too. Ms. Gloss can help guide a student through the career exploration process.

What else can a student gain from Job Shadowing? Job shadowing expands learning beyond the classroom; it increases awareness of educational, social, and technical skills needed for the workplace. Job shadowing can provide a high school student with resume content and a professional contact. In some cases, job shadowing has lead to additional opportunities for the student such as a part-time job or an internship.

Always remember...High school is the best time to explore careers. Job shadowing and career guidance can help a student develop an informed and realistic plan for their future.

For more information contact: Ms. Susan Gloss, Career Specialist

Email: susan.gloss@d303.org Direct phone: 630-587-7130

Guidance Office: Wednesday - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Thursday - 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM

The Career Specialist networks with parent partners, business partners, colleges and high schools to develop a wide range of services and programs to help students comprehend the relevance of a rigorous academic plan. These services augment the classroom experience and help engage students in "real world" learning which helps students see the relevance and connection of academics to careers. These services motivate improved individual student achievement and personal growth. Over the past five years, Ms. Susan Gloss, has provided career assistance to over 10,000 students, and developed over 500 business partnerships.



**St. Charles North High School
FINAL ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE
For 1st Semester 06-07**



Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Period 1 (regular class) 7:30 - 8:20 a.m.
Period 2 (regular class) 8:30 - 9:20 a.m.
Period 7 exam 9:30 - 11:10 a.m.
Period 6 exam 11:20 - 1:00 p.m.
BUSES DEPART AT 1:10 P.M.

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Period 2 exam 7:30 - 9:10 a.m.
Period 3 exam 9:20 - 11:00 a.m.
Period 4 exam 11:10 - 12:50 p.m.

BUSES DEPART AT 1:10 P.M.

Thursday, January 18, 2007

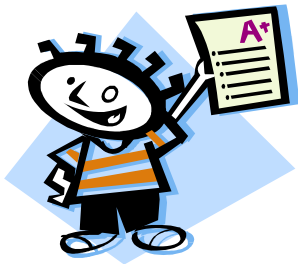
Period 1 exam 7:30 - 9:10 a.m.
Period 5 exam 9:20 - 11:00 a.m.
Period 8 exam 11:10 - 12:50 p.m.

BUSES DEPART AT 1:10 P.M.

Attention Parents!

Want to wish your child 'Good Luck' on their final exams in a cool and creative way?

THEN ORDER THEM A FINALS CARE PACKAGE TODAY FOR ONLY \$10!



Every package comes with:

- Fruit
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Granola Bars
- Water
- Goldfish Crackers
- Smarties
- Fruit snacks

And more!

These packages will help ease the stress of finals week! They will be delivered to your child the week before finals. Please feel free to include a personal note of encouragement in the envelope with your order form and check to be placed in your child's care package!

****2007 PROM FUNDRAISER **** **Help make Prom a success!**

To order care package, tear off bottom portion and send to:

Jr. Class 2008
c/o Erin Looney
255 Red Gate Road
St. Charles, IL 60175

Finals Care Package Order Form

Name _____ ID# _____ Grade _____

8th hour Teacher _____ 8th hour Room # _____

Send this sheet along with **\$10** to Ms. Looney by **December 30th**
(Make checks payable to St. Charles North High School)

IMPORTANT DATES

(Sometimes dates/times change....check school website often)

- | | |
|---|---|
| Dec 18 thru Dec 29 - Winter Break | Jan 31 - 411 Bell Schedule |
| Jan 2 - School Resumes | Feb 6 - Breakfast w/Stars, LRC, 6:45 AM |
| Jan 2 - Breakfast w/Stars, LRC, 6:45 AM | Feb 7 - ETC Bell Schedule |
| Jan 3 - 411 Bell Schedule | Feb 8 thru Feb 10 - Winter Play, Auditorium, 7:30 PM |
| Jan 4 - 8 th Grade Night | Feb 12 - Board of Education Mtg., Admin Bldg., 7:00 PM |
| Jan 8 - Board of Education Mtg., TBA, 7:00 PM | Feb 13 - Non-Audition & Lab Jazz Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM |
| Jan 9 - Financial Aid Night, Auditorium, 7:00 PM | Feb 14 - 411 Bell Schedule |
| Jan 10 - ETC Bell Schedule | Feb 15 - Jazz Concert w/Guest Artist, Auditorium, 7:00 PM |
| Jan 15 - Martin Luther King Day - No School | Feb 16 - Teachers' Institute Day - No School |
| Jan 16 thru Jan 18 - Semester Exams | Feb 19 - President's Day - No School |
| Jan 16 - PTO Mtg., LRC, 7:00 PM | Feb 20 - PTO Mtg., LRC, 7:00 PM |
| Jan 18 - End of Second Quarter | Feb 21 - ETC Bell Schedule |
| Jan 19 - Teacher Workday - No School | Feb 26 thru Mar 2 - Sadie's Spirit Week |
| Jan 22 - Curriculum Move-up Day & Senior Exit Planning Mtg. | Feb 26 - Board of Education Mtg., Admin Bldg., 7:00 PM |
| Jan 22 - Board of Education Mtg., Admin Bldg., 7:00 PM | Feb 28 - 411 Bell Schedule |
| Jan 24 - ETC Bell Schedule | Feb 28 - Film Fest, Auditorium, 7:00 PM |

**St. Charles North High School
255 Red Gate Road
St. Charles, IL 60175**



TIME SENSITIVE MAIL

A community dedicated to achievement and growth through discovery, cooperation, preparation, and inspiration

